

Application No. 10/529,117  
Amendment dated December 19, 2007  
After Final Office Action of Cannot Interpret entered date

Docket No.: 4459-0461PUS1

### REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al., U.S. Patent 6,881,615, in view of Wolf et al., Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 14-18 and 20 to be allowable, and claims 2, 3, 7 and 10 to contain allowable subject matter.

First, without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, claim 9 has been rewritten into independent form, including limitations from objected-to but allowable claim 10. As such, independent claim 9 and its dependent claim 11 should be in condition for allowance.

Next, it noted that claims 1, 6, and 19 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this portion of the rejection moot.

It is further noted that claims 4 and 8 have been amended so as to depend from allowable claim 20, and that claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 14. As such, these claims should now be in condition for allowance.

With regard to newly presented claims 21 and 22, it is noted that these claims contain limitations from original claims 12 and 13, and depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 20 and, as such, should also be in condition for allowance.

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Finally, it is noted that allowable claims 2 and 3 have been combined, which reduces the total number of claims but should not adversely affect the allowability of the claimed subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This Amendment should overcome the current grounds of rejection without raising new issues or containing new matter, and therefore simplify the issues for Appeal. Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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